

1. An automated booking system for guest accommodations, comprising:

a guest accommodation which can be automatically booked by the system and used by the customer for a period of time;

5 a network of a guest accommodations reservation provider having a data base for customer preferences;

reserving means for communication between a home network and the provider network for reserving the guest accommodations for a period of use;

10 preference transmission means for transmitting customer preferences from a data base of the home network to the data base of the provider network; and

means for accessing the provider data base for providing the accommodations depending on the customer preferences.

2. The system of claim 1 in which the guest accommodations are selected from: a hotel room with hotel facilities, a guest office with office facilities, a rental car package, an airline seat package, a restaurant table package, and a train seat package.

3. The system of claim 1 in which the customer preferences include the configuration of the guest accommodations.

4. The system of claim 1 in which the customer preferences include preferences regarding the location of the guest accommodations with respect to features of the accommodations or the locations of accommodations of other guests.

5. The system of claim 1 in which the customer preferences include user programmable settings of consumer appliances in the guest accommodations.

6. The system of claim 1 in which the customer preferences include preferred contents of a refrigerator in the guest accommodation.

5 7. The system of claim 1 in which the customer preferences include preferred food and food preparation equipment in the guest accommodations.

8. The system of claim 1 in which the customer preferences include meal preferences.

9. The system of claim 1 in which the customer preferences include preferred office equipment or supplies in the guest accommodation.

10. The system of claim 1 in which the customer preferences include preferred configuration of a personal computer available in the guest accommodations.

11. An automated booking system for guest accommodations, comprising:

a home network of a customer, the home network interconnecting home appliances having user programmable settings;

a guest accommodation which can be automatically booked by the system and used by the customer for a period of time and which can be provided with guest appliances;

a network of an accommodations provider, the provider network having a data base, the guest appliances of the guest accommodations are connected to the provider network;

reservation means in communication with a home network of a customer and the provider network for reserving the guest accommodations for a period of use;

settings transmission means for transmitting the user programmable settings of the home appliances of the customer to the provider data base; and

means for downloading the user programmable settings from the provider data base into the guest appliances of the guest accommodations for programming the appliances of the guest accommodations at the time of the customer's use of the accommodations.

12. The system of claim 11 in which settings for a plurality of the customer's home appliances are transmitted, stored and downloaded into corresponding appliances of the accommodations that have functions similar to the corresponding home appliances.

13. The system of claim 11 in which the settings of a plurality of the customer's home appliances are analyzed to determine user programmable settings for appliances that are different from the customer's home appliances.

14. The system of claim 11 in which the home network includes a data base containing the user programmable settings of devices connected to the home network;

15. The system of claim 14 in which the home network includes means for communicating with the appliances connected to the home network for automatically determining the current user programmable settings prior to transmitting the settings.

16. The system of claim 11 further comprising:
a data base of the home network;

means for uploading the user programmable settings from the customer's home appliances into the data base of the home network;

an external network communicating with the home network and the provider network;

the user programmable settings are transmitted from the data base of the home network to the data base of the provider network through the external network.

17. The system of claim 16 in which the external network includes one or more of: a cable television network, a telephone network, and the internet.

18. The system of claim 11 in which the programmable settings include speed dial settings for dialing make telephone calls by pushing fewer buttons than the number of digits in corresponding phone numbers.

19. The system of claim 11 in which the programmable settings include speed dial settings for dialing to send facsimiles by pushing fewer buttons than the number of digits in corresponding facsimile telephone numbers.

20. The system of claim 11 in which the programmable settings include environmental settings selected from one or more of temperature, humidity, and light level settings.

21. The system of claim 11 in which the programmable settings include a channel map for translating between sources of multimedia programming and means for selecting multimedia programming.

22. The system of claim 21 in which the means for selecting programming includes a plurality of buttons on a remote control and channel map allows the customer in the hotel room to use the same series of one or more remote control buttons to select a desired

programming source as the series of buttons he uses in his home to select that source.

23. The system of claim 11 in which the programmable settings include settings of software of a personal computer of the hotel room.

24. The system of claim 11 in which the programmable settings include security settings including a security code of a room alarm system.

25. An automated booking system for guest accommodations, comprising:

a home network having a data base of customer preferences;

a guest accommodation which can be automatically booked by the system and used by the customer for a period of time;

a network of a guest accommodations reservation provider having a data base for customer preferences;

reserving means for communication between the home network and the provider network for reserving the guest accommodations for a period of use;

preference transmission means for transmitting customer preferences from the data base of the home network to the data base of the provider network; and

means for accessing the provider data base for providing the accommodations depending on the customer preferences.